



## **SENATOR LAUTENBERG INTRODUCES JUDGE ALITO DURING FIRST DAY OF SUPREME COURT CONFIRMATION HEARINGS**

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, United States Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) introduced fellow New Jerseyan Samuel A. Alito at the start of his confirmation hearings for a position on the U.S. Supreme Court.

**“Chairman Specter, Ranking Member Leahy, and colleagues on this committee:**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Jon Corzine, U.S. Senator and Governor-Elect of New Jersey, also wanted to be here, but transition duties in Trenton prevented him from doing so.**

**I have been honored to serve in the U.S. Senate for 21 years, and I am convinced that our duty to provide advice and consent for Justices of the Supreme Court is our most important constitutional responsibility.**

**Our mandate is to be a nation of laws, and the Supreme Court is the place we look to safeguard our civil rights and individual liberties. But I believe that judges must recognize that our Constitution is an 18<sup>th</sup> Century document that needs to be applied in the context of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

**We also depend on the Supreme Court to uphold the integrity of our government.**

**So I am privileged to have the opportunity today to introduce Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr. to this committee.**

**Judge Alito was born and raised in the Great State of New Jersey. Our state has a legacy of producing outstanding jurists, most notably the late Justice William J. Brennan, who ushered in our nation’s recommitment to civil rights in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Another distinguished jurist, Justice Antonin Scalia also was born in New Jersey.**

**In 1950, Sam Alito was born in our state’s capital city of Trenton to a family of worthy achievement.**

Judge Alito's father was an immigrant from Italy who taught history in high school and later ran the New Jersey Office of Legislative Services, which is similar to our own Congressional Research Service in that it provides objective, unbiased information to the legislature.

Judge Alito's mother was a librarian, teacher and school principal. She is now 91, and still resides in their family home in Hamilton, New Jersey.

From his parents, Judge Alito learned the importance of education and integrity.

Judge Alito and his sister went to public school in Hamilton, where they both joined the debate team. It seems like the debating experience paid off, as both he and his sister have excelled in the legal profession.

Sam Alito then went on to Princeton University, where his yearbook entry predicted that he would one day "warm a seat on the Supreme Court."

He graduated from Yale Law School in 1975, and served as a clerk for Circuit Court Judge Leonard Garth, with whom he currently serves.

In 1977 Sam Alito joined the U.S. Attorney's office in Newark, where he met his future wife Martha – who is present here today. They later moved here to Washington, where Sam Alito served as an assistant to the Solicitor General, and later in the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel.

In 1987, Judge Alito returned home to New Jersey after President Reagan appointed him the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey. He was a strong prosecutor, and nobody was surprised when President George H. W. Bush appointed him to the Third Circuit Court in 1990. I had the privilege of introducing him then as well.

Judge Alito's accomplishments in life are the embodiment of the American Dream. I am honored to introduce him to the committee.

Judge Alito is a young man. If the Senate confirms him for a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court, he could serve for three decades – or even longer, especially judging from my own age. His decisions would affect our rights, the rights of our children, our grandchildren and other future generations.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, it is the job of this committee to evaluate Judge Alito's qualifications and fitness for the Court, including his views on legal issues.

I know every member of the committee takes that obligation seriously, and I trust that Judge Alito will be forthcoming and cooperative in this process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman."